

State Workforce Investment Board

Purpose – Workforce Investment Act Title I

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 establishes that the purpose of this subtitle is to provide workforce investment activities, through statewide activities, through statewide and local workforce investment systems, that increase the employment, retention, and earnings of participants, and increase occupational skill attainment by participants, and as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency, and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Nation.

Montana's Stated Purpose

- To create policy recommendations for the Governor related to the establishment and maintenance of an efficient, integrated, statewide workforce development system. To serve as a focal point for addressing the major workforce development issues of Montana
- To lead the strategic planning process for an integrated workforce development system, in consultation with the local Community Management Teams
- To create performance standards that identifies effective workforce initiatives
- To coordinate the state's workforce investment initiatives with the state's economic development plan

Montana's State Workforce Investment Board Mission Statement

To advise the Governor on the creation, implementation, and continuous improvement of a comprehensive statewide workforce development system, designed to train the maximum number of unemployed and underemployed Montanan's as possible.

Board Goals:

- Engage the workforce system in anticipating and responding to business' current and emerging needs for the skilled workers
- Encourage alignment among workforce development, post secondary education, and economic development
- Advance workforce development policies by providing recommendation to the Governor and other state leaders who support economic development efforts in Montana

State Workforce Investment Board Functions

- System building; Demand Driven
 - Coordination and partnerships with economic development, workforce development, education, business, and industry
 - Continuous improvement of an integrated statewide system of workforce development activities, and one-stop delivery systems
 - Seek to streamline governance and alignment of economic and workforce regions
 - Seek ways to leverage collective private and public sector asset/resources that will optimize innovation and successful regional economic transformation

State Workforce Investment Board Functions – Cont.

- Workforce Investment Act Program (Adult, Youth, Dislocated Worker) implementation; development of funding allocations for the WIA Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker programs; and continuous improvement of WIA performance measures
- Developing the State Workforce Investment Plan
- Enhance a vision for serving youth most in need
- Expand workforce information as the foundation for strategic planning and career guidance

Roles and Responsibilities

Administrative

- Provides statewide program oversight
- Acts as the fiscal agent and administrative entity for the State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB).
- Administrative functions include fiscal tracking, participant data tracking, reporting to the U.S. Department of Labor, monitoring the Workforce Investment Board and local service providers for compliance and quality issues, providing training and technical assistance to the system, and policy interpretation and development
- On behalf of the SWIB, the Bureau contracts with local providers who then provide services to adults, youth, and dislocated workers

SWIB Director/Staff

- Manage Big Picture (Federal, State, and Local)
- Facilitate and support the administration of the SWIB and its functions
- Consult with business, educational institutions, and related entities to facilitate workforce development opportunities, disseminate information regarding program efforts, and to build support and cooperation for program initiatives
- Provide research and analysis of new education and training solutions for the development and continuous improvement of statewide workforce development activities
- Provide reports
- Facilitate strategic partnerships
- Coordinate publicity, marketing, and advertizing

Board Chair

- Responsible for leading the Board in its work
- The Chair is responsible for building relationships and coalitions that result in the development of the system envisioned by the Board for the Workforce Investment Area and the region(s)
- Convene system partners to address statewide and regional workforce issues

- Provides Board meeting oversight
- May assist with successor preparation and training

Board Member

- Represents the WIA Board in relation to the federal employment and training program known as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
- Guides the workforce development system and the programs available to business and job seekers in the regions of the State
- Ensures the integration of services to prepare individuals to meet the needs of business and industry
- Oversees expenditures of Federal WIA employment and training funds
- Provide a forum and vehicle for the business community to give direction and guidance to the Workforce System
- Market and promote workforce services to business interest and the community
- Identify workforce issues and commission studies and projects to solve them
- Monitor and direct Continuous Improvement of the Workforce Development System
- Collaborate with and support economic development activities in the State
- Provide recommendations for actions to address workforce issues
- Additional workforce support and activities as directed by the Governor
- Provide needed feedback to local Workforce area stakeholders